Gaisal Collision

494. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned failure of staff caused Gaisal collision: Probe which appeared in Indian Express dated the 18th August, 1999;

(b) if so, whether a task force has been set up for better understanding of the working difficulties of NF Railway administration, reportedly recommended by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendation of Chief Commission Safety a task force has been set up comprising of seven senior Railway Board Officers from different disciplines which includes OSD/Safety, EDTT(S), EDE(RRB), ED(Signal), ED/Finance, ED/ME(Tract), and ED(LM).

Extension of Broad Gauge Rail line from Silchar

†495. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of extension of broad gauge rail line from Silchar to Jiribam is likely to be taken up;

(b) whether the survey work for conversion of this line has been taken up; if so by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the amount of funds allotted for conversion of the above rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The work has been sanctioned as a material modification of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar section. The detailed planning has been taken up for starting the work. The work will be completed along with the gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) Since this work is sanctioned as a part of Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project, funds as required have to be met out of the allotment for that work, which, in the current year, is Rs. 40 crs.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.